The Dynamics of Socio-Economic Development

An Introduction

Why are poor countries poor and rich countries rich? How are wealth and poverty related to changes in nutrition, health, life expectancy, education, population growth and politics? This modern, non-technical introduction to development studies explores the dynamics of socio-economic development and stagnation in developing countries. Taking a quantitative and comparative approach to contemporary debates within their broader context, Szirmai examines historical, institutional, demographic, sociological, political and cultural factors. Key chapters focus on economic growth, technological change, industrialisation and agricultural development, and consider social dimensions such as population growth, health and education. Each chapter contains comparative statistics on trends from a sample of twenty-nine developing countries. This rich statistical database allows students to strengthen their understanding of comparative development experiences. Assuming no prior knowledge of economics, the book is suited for use in interdisciplinary development studies programmes as well as economics courses, and will also interest practitioners pursuing careers in developing countries.

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The Dynamics of Socio-Economic Development
An Introduction

Adam Szirmai
Contents

List of figures xvii
List of tables xix
List of boxes xxiii
Preface xxv
List of abbreviations xxix
Acknowledgements xxxii

Chapter 1 Developing countries and the concept of development 1
1.1 Approaches to development 2
1.2 The development debate 4
1.3 Growth and development 6
1.4 Are growth and development desirable? 9
1.5 Development and Westernisation 11
1.6 Indicators of growth and development 12
1.7 Does the 'third world' exist? 16
1.8 What do developing countries have in common? 28

Chapter 2 Development of the international economic order, 1450–2000 35
2.1 International economic order 36
2.2 Economic breakthrough and external expansion from Western Europe 36
2.3 Why expansion from Europe instead of from China? 39
2.4 European expansion in the world 43
2.4.1 Types of international economic orders 45
2.4.2 The first wave of expansion, 1400–1815 47
2.4.3 The first wave of decolonisation 50
2.4.4 The second phase of European expansion, 1815–1913 51
2.4.5 The period 1870–1913 53
2.4.6 Migration flows 54
2.4.7 Non-colonised areas 59
2.4.8 Latecomers in the process of economic development 60
2.4.9 The period 1913–1950 60
2.4.10 The period after World War II 61
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Two perspectives on developments in the world economy:</td>
<td>63</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.5</td>
<td>1500–2000</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Key issues in development</td>
<td>64</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chapter 3</td>
<td>Growth and stagnation: theories and experiences</td>
<td>68</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.1</td>
<td>What are the basic sources of growth?</td>
<td>69</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.2</td>
<td>Classical thinking about growth, development and stagnation</td>
<td>70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.2.1</td>
<td>Adam Smith</td>
<td>71</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.2.2</td>
<td>The classical economists Ricardo, Malthus and Mill</td>
<td>71</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.2.3</td>
<td>Friedrich List</td>
<td>72</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.2.4</td>
<td>Classical sociologists: Spencer, Tönnies and Durkheim</td>
<td>72</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.2.5</td>
<td>Karl Marx</td>
<td>74</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.2.6</td>
<td>Imperialism</td>
<td>75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.2.7</td>
<td>Max Weber and Joseph Schumpeter</td>
<td>76</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.3</td>
<td>Internal and external approaches</td>
<td>78</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.4</td>
<td>Explanations of economic backwardness</td>
<td>79</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.4.1</td>
<td>Rostow's theory of the stages of economic growth</td>
<td>79</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.4.2</td>
<td>Kuznets's preconditions for industrialisation</td>
<td>81</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.4.3</td>
<td>Advantages of backwardness</td>
<td>82</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.4.4</td>
<td>Neoclassical theories of growth</td>
<td>83</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.4.5</td>
<td>Evolutionary theories of economic change</td>
<td>87</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.4.6</td>
<td>North and Thomas: efficient institutions</td>
<td>88</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.4.7</td>
<td>Myrdal: Institutional reforms</td>
<td>89</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.5</td>
<td>Explanations of underdevelopment</td>
<td>90</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.5.1</td>
<td>Neo-Marxist theories of underdevelopment</td>
<td>91</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.5.2</td>
<td>Structuralism and theories of unequal exchange</td>
<td>94</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.5.3</td>
<td>Underdevelopment theories: a preliminary evaluation</td>
<td>96</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.6</td>
<td>Empirical study of development experiences</td>
<td>97</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.6.1</td>
<td>Growth of income per capita: can developing countries grow?</td>
<td>98</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.6.2</td>
<td>Investment: how important is capital?</td>
<td>102</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.6.3</td>
<td>Export performance</td>
<td>104</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.6.4</td>
<td>External finance: does money flow from poor to rich countries?</td>
<td>106</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.6.5</td>
<td>Are developing countries capable of structural change?</td>
<td>109</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.6.6</td>
<td>How unequal is the income distribution?</td>
<td>112</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
# Contents

## Chapter 4 Technology and development 117

4.1 The role of technology 117
4.2 The technology race 118
4.3 Technological change and increases in productive capacity 121
  4.3.1 How to increase labour productivity? 121
  4.3.2 Investing in technological change 123
  4.3.3 Diffusion of technology and technological and social capabilities 124
  4.3.4 Technology, productivity and competitiveness 125
4.4 Economic theories about the role of technological change 126
  4.4.1 Solow 126
  4.4.2 Advantages of backwardness 127
  4.4.3 Endogenous and evolutionary growth theories 127
4.5 Consequences of the acceleration of technological development for developing countries 129
  4.5.1 Acceleration of global technological change 129
  4.5.2 Knowledge gaps 130
  4.5.3 New opportunities offered by technological development 131
  4.5.4 New threats 132
4.6 International technology transfer and technology diffusion 133
  4.6.1 Intellectual property rights 134
  4.6.2 Technological capabilities 135
  4.6.3 National innovation systems 136
4.7 Biotechnology 137
4.8 Information and communication technology 137
4.9 National and international policy 138

## Chapter 5 Population and development 141

5.1 Introduction 142
5.2 Perspectives on population growth 142
5.3 Growth of world population 143
5.4 The demographic transition 145
5.5 Demographic developments in developing countries 147
5.6 Socio-economic consequences of population growth 151
  5.6.1 Pessimistic and optimistic perspectives 151
  5.6.2 Malthusian analyses 152
  5.6.3 The neo-Malthusian trap 152
  5.6.4 Growth of national income, growth of per capita income and the dependency ratio 154
  5.6.5 Dependency ratio and savings 154
5.6.6 Population growth and investment 155
5.6.7 Population growth, education and health care 156
5.6.8 Employment, income distribution and poverty 156
5.6.9 Population growth and the environment 159
5.6.10 Population growth and technological progress 163
5.6.11 Consequences of population growth: concluding remarks 165

5.7 Why do people in developing countries have so many children? 165
5.7.1 Introduction 165
5.7.2 Intermediate determinants of fertility: the Bongaarts model 166
5.7.3 Economic explanations of fertility 168
5.7.4 Cultural and institutional explanations of fertility 169

5.8 Policy 171

Chapter 6 Health, health care and development 177
6.1 The state of health in developing countries 178
6.1.1 Quantitative indicators of the state of health 178
6.1.2 Infant and child mortality 179
6.1.3 Life expectancy 181
6.1.4 Patterns of disease and health 183
6.1.5 Common infectious and parasitic diseases in developing countries 186
6.1.6 Epidemiological transition 190
6.2 Theoretical explanations of changes in health and morbidity 192
6.2.1 Factors affecting the state of health 192
6.2.2 Preston: per capita income and life expectancy 193
6.2.3 McKeown: the importance of nutrition 194
6.2.4 Preston and McKeown 195
6.2.5 The Mosley model and the importance of education 196
6.2.6 Caldwell: the importance of health-care policy 199
6.2.7 Standards of living, education, medical technology and health-care systems: a synthesis 202
6.3 Health and economic development 204
6.4 Health-care policy 206

Chapter 7 Education and development 213
7.1 Theories of the contribution of education to economic development 214
7.1.1 ‘Human capital’ theory 214
7.1.2 Criticisms of human capital theory 218
Contents

7.1.3 Screening theory 219
7.1.4 Criticisms of screening theory 220
7.1.5 An evaluation of the human capital debate 220
7.1.6 Education as a necessary but not sufficient condition for development 222

7.2 Indicators of educational development 225
7.2.1 Indicators of educational enrolment 225
7.2.2 Educational Attainments 226
7.2.3 Financial indicators 227
7.2.4 Physical indicators 227
7.2.5 Literacy 227

7.3 Educational performance in developing countries 228
7.3.1 The initial situation after World War II 228
7.3.2 Increases in educational enrolment 229
7.3.3 Education completed 232
7.3.4 Years of education per member of the labour force 233
7.3.5 Educational expenditures 234
7.3.6 Non-formal and informal education 237
7.3.7 Summary: comparison with developments in more developed countries 238

7.4 Problems 239
7.4.1 Discrepancies between educational needs and financial resources 239
7.4.2 The quality of education 240
7.4.3 Lack of relevance 241
7.4.4 Unequal access to education 242
7.4.5 Mismatch between education and the labour market 243

7.5 Literacy 245

7.6 Nation building 248

7.7 Policy 250

Chapter 8 Economic development, structural transformation and primary exports 255
8.1 Capital accumulation and industrialisation 256
8.2 Economic development and structural transformation 258
8.2.1 Definitions of economic sectors 258
8.2.2 Structural change 260
8.2.3 Arguments in favour of industrialisation 262
8.2.4 The prestige of industrialisation 266

8.3 Accumulation of industrial capital in open and closed models of the economy 266
8.3.1 Open and closed models of the economy: early and late stages of development 266
8.3.2 Is the agricultural sector a stagnant or a dynamic sector? 269
8.3.3 What about the service sector? 271
8.4 The development of agriculture as a prerequisite for industrialisation 272
8.4.1 The role of agriculture in early stages of development 272
8.4.2 Historical examples of relationships between agriculture and industry 274
8.4.3 Conclusion 275
8.5 Open model: are primary exports an engine of growth and structural transformation? 276
8.5.1 Introduction 276
8.5.2 Comparative advantage and the role of trade in development 276
8.5.3 Primary exports as an engine of growth between 1817 and 1913: vent for surplus 278
8.5.4 Why disappointing industrialisation? 280
8.5.5 Can primary exports function as the engine of growth? 281
8.5.6 Export pessimism 283
8.5.7 Export pessimism and policy 288
8.5.8 Finding an appropriate balance between primary exports and industrialisation 288
8.6 Closed model: interactions between agriculture and industry in later stages of development and structural change 294
8.6.1 Introduction: import-substituting industrialisation in the closed model 294
8.6.2 Transfer mechanisms 295
8.6.3 Towards a balance between agriculture and industry 295
8.6.4 The mix of negative and positive incentives in a balanced growth path 298
8.7 Closed and open models and industrialisation 301

Chapter 9 Industrial development 303
9.1 Introduction 304
9.2 Large-scale industrialisation and balanced growth strategies 306
9.2.1 Economic development with unlimited supplies of labour 306
9.2.2 Capital-output ratio 309
9.2.3 Shortage of capital as the key bottleneck in economic development 310
9.2.4 Does economic development result in increasing income inequality? 310
9.2.5 The two-gap model of foreign finance: the role of financial flows from abroad 312
9.2.6 Big is beautiful: large-scale investment, government planning and import substitution 313

9.3 Criticisms of orthodox industrialisation strategies 318
9.3.1 Shortcomings of the Lewis model 319
9.3.2 Is capital really so important? 321
9.3.3 How important is the scale of investment? 321
9.3.4 Protection breeds inefficiency 323
9.3.5 Urban industrial bias 324
9.3.6 Alternative industrialisation strategies 326

9.4 Unbalanced growth 326
9.4.1 The function of dynamic imbalances 326
9.4.2 Backward and forward linkages 327
9.4.3 Shift to the market 329

9.5 Balanced growth path 330
9.6 Medium and small-scale enterprises and the urban informal sector 331

9.7 Export-oriented industrialisation 334
9.7.1 The shift from import substitution to export orientation 334
9.7.2 Globalisation, foreign direct investment and the role of multinational companies in development 340

9.8 Liberalisation, deregulation and the debate on industrial policy: neoliberals versus interventionists 343
9.9 Outcomes of industrialisation strategies 345
9.10 Conclusion 351

Chapter 10 Agricultural development and rural development 354
10.1 Is there enough food to feed the world population? 355
10.2 What are the sources of growth of agricultural production? 361
10.2.1 How much land is still left for cultivation? 361
10.2.2 Intensification of land use 367
10.2.3 Increasing yields per harvest 372
10.2.4 Models of agricultural development 375
10.2.5 The green revolution: increase in yields per harvest 380
10.2.6 The green revolution continued: biotechnology and genetically modified crops 386
10.2.7 Summary and prospects 388
## Contents

10.3 Food consumption and nutrition  390
10.4 Rural development versus agricultural development  396
  10.4.1 Changes in rural societies  399
  10.4.2 Three perspectives on rural development  400
  10.4.3 The peasant economy and peasant households  404
  10.4.4 Rationality, risk and survival strategies in peasant societies  409
10.5 Land reform  414
10.6 Collectivisation and decollectivisation  419
10.7 Non-agrarian activities and integrated rural development  421

### Chapter 11 State formation and political aspects of development  426
11.1 Concepts  427
11.2 Marxist and Weberian perspectives on the state  431
11.3 Processes of state formation in Europe  433
11.4 State formation in developing countries  438
  11.4.1 The importance of external penetration in processes of state formation  439
  11.4.2 Internal political instability  443
  11.4.3 External political interference as a destabilising factor  445
  11.4.4 The role of the military in politics  451
  11.4.5 One-party states  455
  11.4.6 Is there a resurgence of democracy in developing countries?  457
  11.4.7 Rapid growth of the public sector since 1945  459
  11.4.8 'Soft states' and the political economy of rent seeking  459
11.5 The role of government in economic development  462
  11.5.1 The role of the state in economic development: five examples  463
11.6 Interactions between political and economic developments  472
  11.6.1 Political instability as a source of economic stagnation  472
  11.6.2 Economic development and political stability  474
  11.6.3 Is there a relationship between democracy and economic development?  476
  11.6.4 Good governance and economic development  478
11.7 The predatory state as an obstacle to economic development in Sub-Saharan Africa  480
11.8 Concluding remarks  483
Chapter 12 Cultural dimensions of development 486
12.1 Introduction 487
  12.1.1 Concepts 487
  12.1.2 How important is culture? 487
12.2 The Protestant ethic and the rise of capitalism 489
12.3 Efficient institutions 491
12.4 Traditional versus modern cultures 493
  12.4.1 Modernisation theory 493
  12.4.2 Towards a more differentiated approach to the opposition between traditional and modern 495
12.5 Are there cultural obstacles to economic development? 497
  12.5.1 The caste system 498
  12.5.2 The low status of physical work and effort 499
  12.5.3 Social obligations in African cultures 500
  12.5.4 Gender discrimination 501
  12.5.5 The importance of trust in market relationships 501
  12.5.6 The mysterious role of ethnic minorities in economic development 502
  12.5.7 Cultural differences between North and Latin America 502
  12.5.8 The Soviet legacy 503
  12.5.9 Asian values and the Confucian ethic 503
12.6 Civic culture 506
12.7 Cultural consequences of and reactions to Western penetration 507
  12.7.1 Cultural consequences 507
  12.7.2 Reactions to Western penetration and cultural disruption 508
12.8 Interactions between culture, technology and economics at micro-level 511

Chapter 13 The international economic and political order since 1945 515
13.1 Characteristics of international relations since 1945 516
  13.1.1 Economic aspects 516
  13.1.2 Political aspects 521
13.2 Institutions and institutional change since 1945: a chronological overview 526
  13.2.1 Free trade versus international regulation 531
  13.2.2 The financial institutions 531
  13.2.3 The UN family of institutions and the call for a new international economic order 534
  13.2.4 Responses to the new international economic order 535
13.2.5 The debt crisis and the rise of the Washington consensus 536
13.2.6 The Asian crisis and the debate on the architecture of the international order 538
13.2.7 Environment 539
13.3 The call for a new international order in the 1960s and 1970s 539
13.3.1 Criticisms of the liberal international order 539
13.3.2 Lomé agreements 542
13.3.3 Criticisms of the new international order 542
13.4 The debt crisis 546
13.4.1 What is wrong with debt? 546
13.4.2 What caused the 1982 debt crisis? 547
13.4.3 Quantitative data on debt and financial flows in developing countries 549
13.4.4 How to deal with debt? 558
13.5 Structural adjustment policies 563
13.5.1 Neoliberalism versus structuralism 563
13.5.2 Structural adjustment, IMF and the World Bank 564
13.5.3 Stabilisation and structural adjustment 565
13.5.4 The effectiveness of structural adjustment programmes 568
13.6 The Asian crisis and the renewed debate on globalisation 573

Chapter 14 Foreign aid and development 580
14.1 Why foreign aid? 581
14.2 The emergence of foreign aid 585
14.3 Development aid: sources and categories 588
14.4 Quantitative data on aid flows 591
14.4.1 Long-term trends in the magnitude and geographical distribution of aid flows 591
14.4.2 Development aid in proportion to total resource flows 594
14.4.3 Net development assistance as a percentage of gross domestic product 598
14.4.4 Reduction of the real value of aid by tying 600
14.4.5 Conclusion: the volume of aid is not negligible 601
14.5 Theories of development and objectives of aid 601
14.5.1 Aid as a source of investment, capital accumulation and growth 601
14.5.2 Aid, growth and poverty reduction 604
14.5.3 Technical assistance, human capital theory and growth 606
14.5.4 Policy dialogue and programme aid: policy reform and improvements in governance and institutions 607

14.6 Does aid work? Different perspectives on the effectiveness of development aid 609
14.6.1 Does aid contribute to welfare and socio-economic dynamism? 609
14.6.2 Radical criticisms of development aid 611
14.6.3 Neoliberal criticism of development aid 614
14.6.4 Criticism of development projects 617
14.6.5 Empirical debates about aid effectiveness and proposals for reform 618
14.6.6 Epilogue: an attempt at evaluation 628

Bibliography 633
Author index 688
Subject index 698
## Figures

5.1 Population growth, 1950–2050  
5.2 The demographic transition  
5.3 The neo-Malthusian trap  
5.4 Determinants of fertility  
6.1 Life expectancy at birth, 1900, 1930 and 1960  
6.2 Intermediate factors influencing child mortality  
9.1 Economic development with unlimited supplies of labour  
10.1 Cereals production per capita, 1961–2001
Tables

1.1 Population, GNP per head and growth in the world economy  page 17
1.2 Inequality in the world economy  27
1.3 World poverty: population living below poverty lines, 1987 and 1998  30
2.1 Slave imports into the Americas, 1451–1870  55
2.2 Slave exports from Africa to the Americas, by region of origin, 1500–1870  56
3.1 Growth of GDP per capita, 1870–2000  99
3.2 Growth of GDP per capita, 1973–2000  101
3.3 Gross domestic investment as percentage of GDP  103
3.4 Export performance, 1870–1998  104
3.5 Manufactured exports as percentage of total merchandise exports  105
3.6 External finance as percentage of GDP, 1950–2000  106
3.7 Gross value of foreign capital in developing countries, 1870–1998  108
3.8 Structure of employment by sector 1950–2000  110
3.9 Structure of production, 1950–2000  111
3.10 Distribution of income or consumption, 1980–2000  114
4.1 US patent activity, 1870–2001  129
4.2 R&D efforts  131
4.3 ICT indicators  131
5.1 Growth of world population  144
5.2 Population growth in selected developing countries 1820–2000  148
5.3 Indicators of demographic changes, 1950–2000, by region  149
5.4 Unemployment and informal employment in selected countries 1990–2000  157
5.5 Government policies and birth control  173
6.2 Life expectancy at birth in selected developing countries, 1920–2000  182
6.3 Life expectancy at birth per region, 1950–2005  183
6.4 Causes of death by region, 1980–2000  185
6.5 Prevalence of HIV/AIDS in developing countries, 2001  188
6.6 Comparisons of levels of per capita income, infant mortality and life expectancy at birth in 2000  201
7.1 Gross enrolment ratios by educational level, country and region, 1960–2000  230
### List of tables

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Table</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>7.2</td>
<td>Net enrolment ratios by region, 1960–2000</td>
<td>231</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7.3</td>
<td>Highest diploma obtained in selected countries, 1980–2000</td>
<td>232</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7.4</td>
<td>Mean years of schooling per member of the labour force in fourteen developing countries between 1960 and 1980</td>
<td>234</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7.5</td>
<td>Government expenditure per pupil in selected countries, 1965–1996</td>
<td>235</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7.6</td>
<td>Government expenditure as a percentage of gross national product, 1960–2000</td>
<td>236</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7.7</td>
<td>Illiterates as a percentage of the population of 15 years and over</td>
<td>248</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8.1</td>
<td>Sectoral distinctions</td>
<td>259</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8.2</td>
<td>Industrialisation and per capita gross national product in 2000</td>
<td>264</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8.3</td>
<td>Advantages of international trade</td>
<td>277</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8.4</td>
<td>Net barter terms of trade, selected countries, 1950–2000</td>
<td>291</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8.5</td>
<td>Income terms of trade, selected countries, 1950–2000</td>
<td>292</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9.1</td>
<td>Capital-output ratios</td>
<td>310</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9.3</td>
<td>Manufactured exports as percentage of GDP, 1960–2000</td>
<td>336</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9.4</td>
<td>FDI as percentage of GDP and total fixed capital formation, selected countries, 1960–2000</td>
<td>341</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9.6</td>
<td>Aggregate growth in industry and manufacturing, 1960–2000</td>
<td>347</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9.7</td>
<td>Share of developing countries in world manufacturing value added 1960–1996</td>
<td>348</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9.8</td>
<td>Share of developing countries in world manufactured exports, 1963–2000</td>
<td>349</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10.1</td>
<td>Indices of agricultural production, 1934–2002</td>
<td>356</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10.2</td>
<td>Cultivated area, potential agricultural land, pastures, woodlands</td>
<td>362</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10.3</td>
<td>Arable land in use as percentage of potential arable land (1979–1999)</td>
<td>363</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10.4</td>
<td>Deforestation, 1980–2000, regional aggregates and selected developing countries</td>
<td>365</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10.5</td>
<td>Systems of supply for vegetable food</td>
<td>366</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10.6</td>
<td>Cropping intensity in developing countries, 1974–2030</td>
<td>372</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10.7</td>
<td>Irrigated area in developing countries</td>
<td>373</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10.8</td>
<td>Sources of growth of crop production, 1961–2030</td>
<td>389</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10.9</td>
<td>Average availability of calories, 1964–2015</td>
<td>392</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10.10</td>
<td>Undernourishment in developing countries, 1969–2000</td>
<td>393</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10.11</td>
<td>Share of rural population, agricultural labour force and agricultural production, 1950–2000</td>
<td>397</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11.1</td>
<td>Wars and war casualties, 1945–2003</td>
<td>448</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11.2</td>
<td>Political regime in developing countries</td>
<td>452</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11.3</td>
<td>Successful coups in developing countries, 1945–2002</td>
<td>455</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13.1</td>
<td>Growth rate of world exports</td>
<td>517</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13.2</td>
<td>Developing countries with heavy debt burdens, 1982–2001</td>
<td>550</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Table</td>
<td>Title</td>
<td>Page</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-------</td>
<td>-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
<td>------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13.3</td>
<td>Debts, foreign investment and financial flows in developing countries, 1970–2002</td>
<td>553</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13.4</td>
<td>Net transfers with respect to foreign debt and foreign investment selected countries, 1970–2001</td>
<td>554</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14.1</td>
<td>Net receipts of development assistance by income level and region, 1960–2001</td>
<td>592</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14.2</td>
<td>Distribution of net official development assistance from OECD countries by region</td>
<td>593</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14.3</td>
<td>Country contributions to aid, 1985–2001</td>
<td>593</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14.4</td>
<td>Net development aid as a percentage of the total net inflow of financial resources by income and region, 1960–2001</td>
<td>595</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14.5</td>
<td>Net official development assistance and net total resource flows in selected countries, 1960–2001</td>
<td>597</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14.6</td>
<td>Net official development assistance as a percentage of net total resource flows in selected developing countries, 1960–2001</td>
<td>598</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14.7</td>
<td>Net development assistance as a percentage of gross domestic product in selected developing countries, 1960–2000</td>
<td>599</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Boxes

1.1 Untenable generalisations about development page 5
1.2 Modernisation ideals 8
1.3 Technical problems in the measurement of economic growth 13
1.4 Differences between developing countries 25
1.5 Common characteristics of developing countries 29
2.1 Characteristics of international economic orders 36
2.2 Western expansion and contraction 44
2.3 Types of international economic orders 45
3.1 Sources of growth of GDP per capita 69
3.2 Characteristics of dependent development 91
4.1 Sources of increase in labour productivity 122
4.2 Mechanisms of technology transfer 133
5.1 Relationships between population change and economic development 142
5.2 Demographic characteristics of developing countries 151
7.1 Education, productivity and economic development 217
7.2 Criticisms of human capital theory 218
7.3 Key elements of screening theory 221
7.4 Shortcomings of indicators of educational enrolment 226
7.5 Lessons of the experimental world literacy programme 246
8.1 Arguments for industrialisation 263
8.2 Primary exports as an engine of growth 282
8.3 Export pessimist arguments 283
9.1 Aims of industrial protection 318
9.2 Shortcomings of import substitution 323
9.3 Urban industrial bias 325
10.1 Three ways to expand agricultural production 361
10.2 Functions of fallowing 368
10.3 Lessons from the Boserupian analysis 370
10.4 Characteristics of the green revolution 381
10.5 Varieties of land reform 415
11.1 State formation and external political interference 445
11.2 Explanations for the emergence of One-Party Rule in Africa 456
11.3 Characteristics of personal rule 481
12.1 Characteristics of the Protestant ethic 490
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>List of boxes</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>12.2 Modernisation theory: dichotomies between modern and traditional societies</td>
<td>493</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12.3 Changes affecting traditional communities and cultures</td>
<td>509</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13.1 Characteristics of the post-war economic order</td>
<td>516</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13.2 Important international organisations, treaties and conferences, 1944-2003</td>
<td>527</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13.3 GATT principles</td>
<td>532</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13.4 Principal organs of the United Nations</td>
<td>534</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13.5 Criticisms of the liberal international order in the 1960s</td>
<td>540</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13.6 Elements of the new international economic order</td>
<td>540</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13.7 Objectives of structural adjustment policies</td>
<td>563</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13.8 Stabilisation measures</td>
<td>566</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13.9 Structural adjustment policy measures</td>
<td>567</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14.1 The case for foreign aid</td>
<td>584</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14.2 Sources of development aid</td>
<td>588</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14.3 Examples of project shortcomings</td>
<td>617</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The aim of this book is to provide a general introduction to the dynamics of socio-economic development and to the study of the problems of developing countries. It is a reflection of multidisciplinary courses on ‘development’, which I have been teaching since 1987 at the University of Groningen and the Eindhoven University of Technology. The book was written for students of universities and other institutions of higher education, who encounter the problems of developing countries in the course of their own disciplinary studies and who are in need of a general introduction to this field. It is also intended for people pursuing a professional career in developing countries and readers with a general interest in development. The text can be read as an introduction by students with no prior knowledge of development. It also can be used at a more advanced level as a handbook, providing an overview of current theoretical and empirical debates and controversies in the field of development studies. The book provides non-economists with a non-technical introduction to economic perspectives on development, while introducing economists to a broader socio-economic view of development.

The central issue in development, as approached in this book, lies in low levels of per capita income and low standards of living among the mass of the population in the so-called developing countries. The key elements in the book are trends in per capita income and changes in standards of living and welfare, and the factors that affect economic development or economic stagnation in the long term. The core of development is thus defined in economic terms. However, the explanatory factors are not limited to economic ones. Historical, institutional, cultural, demographic, political, social and ecological factors are all of great importance for the analysis of economic development. They will receive ample attention in the book.

It needs to be emphasised that the concept of development is much broader than that of economic development alone. Development involves a wide range of changes in a variety of social indicators such as health, education, technology or life expectancy, which are directly or indirectly linked to economic changes, but which need to be studied in their own right. This is reflected in the title of the book, which refers to socio-economic development.

The structure of the book takes the key factors distinguished in economic theories of growth – labour, capital and land and technological change – as its main point of departure. However, in line with the interdisciplinary nature of the book, these factors are interpreted in broad fashion. Technological change
lies at the heart of growth and economic development. Two main issues discussed in chapter 4 are the role of technological change in development, and the consequences of accelerating technological change for developing countries. The treatment of the primary production factor ‘labour’ is couched in terms of a more general discussion of demographic and human factors in development. These include population growth and the interrelationships between population growth and economic development (Chapter 5), topics such as health, disease, mortality and life expectancy (Chapter 6) and education, human capital and literacy (Chapter 7). I argue that health and education are important as independent aspects of development in their own right. But the state of health and levels of education also influence the quality of the labour force, the productivity of labour and the socio-economic dynamics of a country.

Modern economic growth is historically associated with massive capital accumulation in the industrial sector and a structural transformation of agrarian societies into societies in which industry and services become more and more important. Structural change and the shift to industry are discussed in Chapter 8, which also deals with the role of primary exports in these transformations. Capital accumulation is discussed in Chapter 9 in the context of the overall process of industrialisation. This chapter also pays attention to the different industrialisation strategies that developing countries have followed over time, including import substitution, balanced growth, labour intensive export orientation, promotion of the informal sector and technological upgrading.

The discussion of the production factor ‘land’ is broadened to include the whole issue of agricultural and rural development. The role of the agricultural sector in the wider process of development is examined in Chapter 8, which makes a case for the continued importance of agriculture in developing countries. In Chapter 10, the development of agricultural production and productivity is discussed against the background of social changes in rural communities and rural areas. This chapter also presents data on trends in food consumption and an overview of the recent debates on modern biotechnology.

The discussion of economic development in Chapters 4 to 10, is preceded and followed by chapters which place development in an historical and international perspective. Chapter 2 focuses on the development of the international economic and political order since the fifteenth century. Chapter 3 deals with the theories and empirics of growth and stagnation. The approach in these chapters is historical and comparative. Chapter 11 focuses on the political aspects of development and the interrelations between state formation, democratic rule and economic growth. Chapter 12 introduces the cultural context of development and discusses the dynamic relationships between cultural change and economic development. Changes in the international political and economic order since World War II are reviewed in Chapter 13. In this chapter, attention is paid to the evolution of international institutions and organisations on the one hand, and the implications of the international division of labour and free trade for developing countries on the other. This chapter includes a discussion of developing country debt, the emergence of structural
adjustment policies and the recent debates on globalisation and the architecture of the international financial system. The final chapter (Chapter 14) focuses on the role of foreign aid in development. Foreign aid is seen as part of international resource flows. It is discussed in the context of theories of development and the many different factors influencing development in the long run. Every chapter ends with questions for review and suggestions for further readings.

Empirical data have an important place in this book. It is my conviction that a serious debate of development issues should be grounded in sound empirical information. Throughout the book, I present empirical data on long-run economic, social and political trends for a sample of twenty-nine developing countries, representing Asia, Latin America and Africa. These twenty-nine countries represent more than three-quarters of the total population of developing countries in the year 2000. The same set of countries is used throughout the book, providing an empirical basis for the discussion of theories, patterns and trends in development. The book contains over seventy tables, usually covering the period from 1950 to the present and sometimes going back to the pre-war period. The country data are supplemented by aggregate statistics for different regions and continents.

This book is accompanied by a website, which presents the detailed worksheets underlying the tables in the book. These worksheets show how the tables in the book have been put together from a variety of sources. The address of this website is: http://www.dynamicsofdevelopment.com. We hope this website will serve as an important didactic tool for the empirical study of development. It will introduce students to the increasing wealth of international comparative statistics on all dimensions of development. More and more data are accessible in electronic form on websites of research institutions and international organisations. Our website will provide links and references to the most important international sources of data on development, serving as a structured portal for statistics on development. Statistical tables are constructs, which depend on assumptions, models, concepts, decisions about what data to use, how to combine data from different sources, what years to compare, how to link data for different years in a consistent fashion and so forth. It is important to be clear about how the data have been collected and organised, what assumptions and choices have been made and what sources have been used. If such information is not provided – as is too often the case – the statistics cannot be trusted. Examination of the worksheets on the website will help readers to formulate their own conclusions, which may well differ from those of this author. They will come to understand that tables should be seen as working hypotheses, rather than final statements. Finally, the website allows us to provide more detail than is possible in the tables in the book. It will also allow for updating on a continuous basis, so the statistics remain up to date.

Despite its considerable length this book has no pretensions to completeness. The attempt to synthesise a very wide range of subjects in a single book will
inevitably leave specialists on different topics unsatisfied. Also, the book is written as an introduction to the ongoing debate on development, rather than a final summary of our knowledge of all different aspects of it. In the choice of subjects, the emphasis has been on the long-run dynamics of development and the factors that play a role in these dynamics.

This book has a long history. A first version was published in Dutch in 1993. An English translation was published in 1997 by Prentice Hall under the title Social and Economic Development: Trends. Problems Policies. However, both the real world and our thinking about development are changing so rapidly that a mere revision was not sufficient. All chapters have been fundamentally rewritten and expanded, the analysis has changed in the light of new insights, new chapters have been added on technology and culture, and new statistics and materials have been incorporated. This has resulted in what amounts to a new textbook, under a new title and with a new publisher. I am grateful to Cambridge University Press for allowing me to undertake this task.

I could not have written this book without the support of numerous colleagues and ex-colleagues. They generously let me profit from their knowledge of and insights into the various aspects of development. I have made extensive use of their advice, their publications, and their empirical research. I have both learned from and enjoyed years of fruitful and intensive discussions with them. I would like to thank the following persons for their advice and stimulating comments on previous drafts of the manuscript: Bart van Ark, Carolina Castaldi, Peter Drijvij, Pierre van der Eng, Jacob de Haan, Hal Hill, Niels Hermes, Jojo Jacob, Hans-Paul Klijnms, Jos Koetsier, Remco Kouwenhoven, Paul Lapperre, Robert Lensink, Angus Maddison, Kees van der Meer, Nanno Mulder, Allessandro Nuvolari, Howard Pack, Dirk Pilat, Gé Prince, Henny Romijn, Johan Schot, Jan Stel, Ida Terluin, Marcel Timmer, Harry van Vianen, Geert Verbong and Bart Verspagen. As always, the responsibility for the book and its shortcomings rests with the author alone. A special word of thanks is due to Paul Lapperre for his help designing the cover and selecting the illustrations.

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Adam Szirmai
Eindhoven
January 2004
Abbreviations

ACER  age-specific enrolment rate
ACP  Asian, Caribbean and Pacific Countries
ADB  Asian Development Bank
ASEAN  Association of South East Asian Nations
BMR  basal metabolic rate
CFCs  chlorofluorocarbons
CGIAR  Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research
CIF  cost, insurance and freight included
CIMMYT  Centro Internacional de Mejoramiento de Maíz y Trigo
       (International Maize and Wheat Improvement Centre)
CMEA  Council for Mutual Economic Assistance
CPI  Corruption Perceptions Index
DAC  Development Assistance Committee (OECD)
DALYs  disability-adjusted life years
DRS  Debt Reporting System (World Bank)
ECLA  United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America
ECOSOC  Economic and Social Council of the UN
EEC  European Economic Community
EC  European Community
ECLA  United Nations Commission for Latin America
ESAF  Enhanced Structural Fund Facility (IMF)
ESCAP  United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and
       the Pacific
EU  European Union
EWLP  Experimental World Literacy Programme
FAO  United Nations Food and Agriculture Organisation
FDI  foreign direct investment
FLN  Front de la libération nationale (national liberation front, Algeria)
Fob  free on board
GATT  General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade
GDFF  Geographical Distribution of Financial Flows to Developing
      Countries
GDP  gross domestic product
GFCF  gross fixed capital formation
GGDC  Groningen Growth and Development Centre
GNP  gross national product
Abbreviations

GSP  Generalised System of Preferences
HALE  healthy life expectancy
HDR  Human Development Report
HIPC  heavily indebted poor countries
IADB  Inter-American Development Bank
IBPGR  International Board for Plant Genetic Resources
IBRD  International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (World Bank)
ICC  International Criminal Court
ICRASAT  Research Institute for Crops in the Semi-arid Tropics
ICT  Information and Communication Technology
IDA  International Development Association
IFAD  International Fund for Agricultural Development
IFC  International Finance Corporation
ILO  International Labour Organization
IMF  International Monetary Fund
IPPC  Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change
IRRI  International Rice Research Institute
ISI  import-substituting industrialisation
ISIC  International Standard Industrial Classification
ITO  International Trade Organisation
LAFTA  Latin American Free Trade Association
LDCs  least developed countries
LEISA  low external input and sustainable agriculture
LMICs  lower-middle-income countries
MICs  moderately indebted countries/middle-income countries
MITI  Ministry of Industry and Trade (Japan)
MNCs  multinational companies
MPS  material product system
N  ach  need for achievement
NAFTA  North American Free Trade Association
NATO  North Atlantic Treaty Organisation
NFDI  net foreign direct investment
NGO  Non Governmental Organisation
NICs  newly industrialising countries
NIEO  New International Economic Order
NToD  net transfers on debt
OA  Other Assistance
OAU  Organisation of African Unity
OAS  Organisation of American States
ODA  Official Development Assistance
OECD  Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development
OEM  original equipment manufacturing
OFID  OPEC Fund for International Development
OFEC  Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries
Abbreviations

PPPs purchasing power parities
PRI Institutional Revolutionary Party
PRS poverty reduction strategy
QUALYs quality-adjusted life years
RAUI ‘risk aversion causes underinvestment’
R&D research and development
SAL Structural Adjustment Loan (World Bank)
SAF Structural Adjustment Facility (IMF)
SECAL Sectoral Adjustment Loan (World Bank)
SICs semi-industrialised countries: or severely indebted countries
SNA System of National Accounts
TNCs transnational companies
TRIPS Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights
TVEs township and village enterprises
UIA Union of International Associations
UMICs upper-middle-income-countries
UN United Nations
UNCED United Nations Conference on Environment and Development
UNCTAD United Nations Conference on Trade and Development
UNDP United Nations Development Programme
UNEPA United Nations Environmental Programme
UNEP United Nations Extended Program of Technical Assistance
UNESCO United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation
UNICEF United Nations Children Fund
UNIDO United Nations Industrial Development Organisation
UNITAR United Nations Institute for Training and Research
UNPF United Nations Population Fund
USAID United States Agency for International Development
USSR Union of Socialist Soviet Republics
WB World Bank (see IBRD)
WDI World Development Indicators (World Bank)
WDR World Development Report (World Bank)
WDT World Debt Tables (World Bank)
WFP World Food Programme
WHO World Health Organization
WIPO World Intellectual Property Organisation
WRI World Resources Institute
WT World Tables (World Bank)
WTO World Trade Organisation
WWI World Watch Institute
Acknowledgements


Every effort has been made to secure necessary permissions to reproduce copyright material in this work, though in some cases it has proved impossible to trace copyright holders. It would be appreciated if any errors or omissions could be brought to the attention of the publisher; we will be happy to include appropriate acknowledgements on reprinting.
No info about development on developed countries. Development is a global issue not an issue only of developing countries. But for these countries the book is fine. Read more. As the title of this review already says, the book is missing the title on the cover! It it says "the dynamics of socio-economic"! What happened to the word "Development"?! Read more. Helpful.